

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

At the outset, it is respectfully noted that there are certain inconsistencies in the Examiner's Action. In this regard, the Examiner has indicated that claim 13, which refers to the easily deformable resilient material, is allowable. Claim 13 is substantially identical to claim 5, so claim 5 should have been indicated allowable as well. Furthermore, claim 14 depends from claim 13 and therefore should not have been rejected over the prior art in view of the indicated allowability of claim 13. Also, on page 2 of the Examiner has stated "the film would anticipate the use of low resilience foamed material in order to aid the forming of the material shape". It is believed and understood that this statement was carried over in error from the Examiner's prior Office Action because it is inconsistent with the Examiner's indicated allowability of claim 13. Shortly after the Examiner's Action was received, the undersigned contacted the Examiner by telephone regarding the above-noted inconsistencies in the Office Action. At that time the Examiner confirmed that the allowability of claim 13 is correct.

Claim 1 has been amended above to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 5 which are understood to be allowable, as noted above. Furthermore, independent claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the allowability limitations of dependent claim 13. In view of the amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14-19 should all now be allowed.

Claims 1-10, 12, and 14-15 [sic 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 15] were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugiyama. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, as noted above, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to incorporate the allowable limitations of dependent claims 5 and 13, respectively, so that the Examiner's rejection has been mooted.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama in view of Simon. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, as noted above, the Examiner's prior art rejection has been mooted by the amendment to claim 10 presented above.

Claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama in view of Miyakawa. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, this rejection has also been mooted by the amendments presented above.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 13 contains allowable subject matter. As noted above, original claim 5, which is substantially identical to claim 13, is understood to be allowable as well.

Attached is the document listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a.

The Rule 17(p) Official Fee required by Rule 97(c) in lieu of certification is submitted herewith. Should that fee be missing or inadequate, please charge the deficiency to our Deposit Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. 461-149.

This Information Disclosure Statement is intended to be in full compliance with the rules, but should the Examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, prompt notice to that effect is earnestly solicited, along with additional time under Rule 97(f), to enable Applicant to comply fully.

Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures plus the return of a copy of the herewith Form PTO/SB/08a with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609 along with an early action on the merits of this application are earnestly solicited.

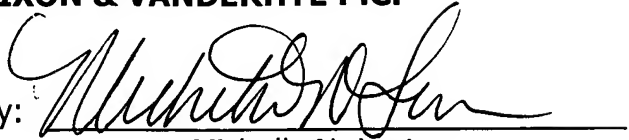
All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

ISHIKAWA et al
Appl. No. 10/674,502
July 25, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle N. Lester", written over a horizontal line.

Michelle N. Lester

Reg. No. 32,331

MNL:slj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100